

1 can pass constitutional muster, but it's also the
2 result of our General Assembly's collective wisdom
3 on trying to -- to provide rate --

4 A (FARRELL) Yes, sir.

5 Q -- relief to our customers and ratepayers so --
6 they are our duly elected representatives and
7 certainly we want to give due consideration to
8 their view of where we go forward. So that's why I
9 was asking that question, and I appreciate your
10 response.

11 A (FARRELL) Yes, sir.

12 Q Those are all the questions I have.

13 A (FARRELL) Thank you, very much, Commissioner.

14 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Mr. Chairman?

15 CHAIRMAN RANDALL: Commissioner Williams.

16 COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS: Thank you,
17 Mr. Chairman.

18 EXAMINATION

19 BY COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS:

20 Q Couple of questions for you, Mr. Farrell. I
21 appreciate leaders in that good leaders tend to
22 make good decisions, they see the entire
23 battlefield, they can see the forest from the
24 trees. And you have availed yourself to us; your
25 leadership team, your entire Company has been in

1 our state for a while, and it -- it comes -- comes
2 off to me that you've gotten a little bit of
3 education about South Carolina.

4 A (FARRELL) It's been an interesting ten months,
5 sir.

6 Q And the reason I bring that up, my colleague,
7 Commissioner Whitfield, made the comment of you
8 being quote/unquote -- you, Dominion, being "Big
9 Daddy." And being a rural South Carolinian, I
10 actually had great-grandparents who my family
11 referred to as "Big Daddy" and "Big Mama,"
12 literally. So to give you some understanding as to
13 what that means -- because it could be seen as a
14 pejorative term. But to give you an understanding
15 of what that means from a rural South Carolinian:
16 There was always food on the table at Big Daddy and
17 Big Mama's house. Big Mama always canned
18 vegetables in the summer so there'd be vegetables
19 in the winter. Big Daddy always had hams in the
20 smokehouse so there'd be meat on the table in the
21 winter. And Big Mama and Big Daddy just didn't
22 take care of their immediate family or their blood
23 relatives; they took care of their entire
24 community.

25 And, when we hear these advertisements of

1 \$1,000, I would submit to you -- and maybe you
2 know, maybe you don't know -- that there may be
3 some people in District 6 that has already spent
4 that \$1,000. And, if this merger were to be
5 approved, there may be some hurt feelings for some
6 folks in District 6 and maybe for every district
7 here if they come to find out that that thousand
8 dollars is not coming. And so to Commissioner
9 Whitfield's question -- because I don't know if I
10 really understood your answer -- what do we tell
11 these people if -- if this merger were to be
12 approved and yet again they feel as if they've been
13 duped/they've been had. How -- how would you
14 propose to explain that?

15 A (FARRELL) That's a -- a very fair question, and it
16 will be our responsibility to do that. The -- we
17 proposed Alternative B. You did not. We proposed
18 it. We own it. We will communicate with the
19 customers that this is in the best interest of the
20 Company and the customers going forward to get
21 their rates down. And I'm not saying it very
22 artfully, sir, but we have -- we will work very
23 hard to carry that out. But it would -- it would
24 by our responsibility, not ORS's responsibility,
25 and it's not going to be the Commission's

1 responsibility.

2 Q Okay. I appreciate your answer, sir.

3 I want to talk about ethics, and I -- I like
4 your Company's values. It's good to have values.
5 I want to talk about ethics. So, as you know, this
6 is a public hearing. This hearing room has been
7 filled to maximum capacity when it first started.
8 It's about halfway filled now. Last week, we
9 averaged a little more than a 1,000 viewers with
10 our livestream broadcast at peak times. I would
11 imagine that there have been tens of thousands of
12 people in the aggregate that have viewed what has
13 been going on here today. There's been countless
14 newspaper articles, media coverage on the TV and
15 even the radio. And there's a lot that -- that--
16 that -- people who may not have paid attention to
17 the Public Service Commission, environmental
18 issues, and utility regulation, now they know --
19 they're in the know. Or even mergers and
20 acquisitions and corporate benefits and corporate
21 executive "parachutes" as they've been termed.

22 Considering all of that, you know some things
23 maybe you wouldn't have known. You know -- you
24 know about the \$110 [sic] trust -- irrevocable
25 trust -- irrevocable trust that has been set up.